



Art & Design

Examination Board: OCR

Specification: Advanced GCE H601 Fine Art

<http://www.ocr.org.uk/>

Why should I study Art?

Art encourages personal creativity and freedom to explore ideas.

Art teaches lateral thinking, problem solving, observational and analytical skills.

Art helps students understand the visual world within which we live in.

Art enables students to express ideas, thoughts and feelings

Art helps students analyse and interpret the wider context within which their work is placed.

There is strong evidence that Universities are becoming increasingly concerned that students are defined by an over dependency on their teachers and that outstanding examination results do not necessarily reflect an enquiring mind. The successful 'A' level Art and Design student **must** be a divergent thinker driven by a desire to be proactive and independent.

What will I learn about?

The emphasis of the course is to enable students to develop their technical skills in a range of disciplines whilst enhancing their knowledge and understanding of the context within which their emerging work is placed. Students initially focus on formal elements of the visual language experimenting and developing ideas through line, tone, colour, texture, composition and so on. This eventually leads to a thematic project which should focus on the students personal interests. The theme is set by the teaching staff and where possible students are encouraged to look at the wider social, historical, cultural and political context surrounding their work. Students embarking on the A level course should **expect** to be independent learners and follow much broader lines of enquiry making their own personal links between the work they produce and the world around them. A level students will build on the ideas and techniques developed during Year 12 and produce work of ever greater depth. This coursework element is accompanied by a personal study consisting of between 1000 and 3000 words. The study focuses on links between work produced by the student and that of a range of other art practitioners.

How will I be taught?

Initially students are taught to experiment with a variety of media, techniques and processes in order to improve technique and become familiarised with the wide range of disciplines available to them.

Once thematic links are introduced students are taught to develop their ideas and research relevant contextual information. Specific tasks are then set for each student based on the four assessment objectives from which their work will be assessed. Individual critiques take place once a term where each student makes a presentation of their work. This is an opportunity to share ideas and give positive feedback.

Site specific visits are encouraged and official gallery and museum visits form an integral part of the course. Students are taught to investigate the processes, techniques and ideas of other Art and Design practitioners which will inform the development of their own work. There is a strong emphasis on exhaustive exploration and analytical investigation. Students are provided with most of the materials they will need to undertake the course although the cost of gallery excursions and sketchbooks is not included. Students experiencing financial difficulties can apply to the school for assistance.

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Application beyond school:

There are diverse and varied careers to be found in the following areas:

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|----------------------|----------------|----------------------|
| Advertising | Product design | Interior design |
| Graphic design | Architecture | Web page design |
| Jewellery | Conservation | Media |
| Theatre design | Fashion design | Photography |
| Gallery curatorship | Teaching | Medical Illustration |
| Advertising Director | Art Editor | Photographic styling |

Assessment Format:

| Level | Component | Component name | Requirements | Duration | Marks |
|----------------|--------------|---------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| A Level | Unit 1 01 | Personal Investigation | Students submit a practical portfolio of work based upon a starting point of their choosing. They will also complete a related written study of 1000-3000 words. | Sept Year 12 - Jan Year 13 | 120 60% of A level |
| A Level | Unit 2 02 | Externally set assignment | Students will select a starting point from a range of topics provided by OCR. Students will produce preparatory studies based around this topic then produce an outcome within 15 hours of controlled time. | Feb - May Year 13 | 80 40% of A level |
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Are there any special requirements?

Students are expected to have attained a minimum of a grade 7 at GCSE. Students electing to take Art and Design A level should be hard working, determined, self-motivated and good at managing their time. It is important to show a willingness to experiment and be analytical in your approach. Good drawing skills are a big advantage but technical ability is not the only key to success.

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